

Appl. No. 09/718,943
Filed November 22, 2000

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acids. Boric acids in any of the forms disclosed by Brichard would not suggest to one of skill the use of the claimed organic acids. Therefore the claims are allowable over Brichard.

The claims are allowable over the other references as well. Onda (U.S. 5,219,549) and James (U.S. 5,556,834), like Brichard, disclose only boric acid coatings. WO 92/17404 and DE 42 09 924 disclose C₈ to C₂₄ carboxylic acids, which disclosure is different from and not suggestive of applicants' claimed mono- or dicarboxylic acids containing 10 to 22 carbon atoms. Likewise the chain length and relative amounts of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids in JP Abstract No. 03115496 neither disclose nor suggest applicants' fatty acids. Lastly, the values of c obtained from its examples fall outside applicants' range of 0.5 to 20 in claim 10.


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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of the claims. Applicants ask for extension of the period to respond to the July 5, 2001 Office Action one month to November 5, 2001. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3) of \$110.00 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-1250 (Order No. 01-0790). Any other due for entry and consideration of this Amendment that have not been accounted for should also be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,


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CLAIMS AMENDED SHOWING AMENDMENTS MADE NOVEMBER 5, 2001

10. (amended) A process for the production of a particulate detergent or detergent premix component comprising the steps of providing a flowable acidic component, providing a particle comprising an alkaline detergent ingredient, and applying the flowable acidic component to the particle, wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula $m_a / (m_a + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_a is the weight of the acidic component applied, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle and c is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units, and wherein the acidic component comprises one or more acids selected from the group consisting of mono- or dicarboxylic acids containing 10 to 22 carbon atoms, sulfuric acid monoalk(en)yl esters containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, alk(en)yl or alkylaryl sulfonic acids containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, and polymeric polycarboxylic acids obtainable by polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated mono- and/or dicarboxylic acids.